SUBJECTS.

36. Scrutiny into D. P. W. estimates.

(11) That the estimates framed by the D. P. W. might be scrutinized with care and the execution of works according to the estimates might be strictly supervised.

Dewan's reply.—Representations 1 to 5 will be considered.

In regard to exempting the trees on tank-bunds from taxation no general order can be issued. Individual cases will be considered and disposed of on the merits.

The Chief Engineer is considering the question of the supply of water to the tanks. The new rules to be framed will remove the difficulties.

As regards the Settlement operations it is proposed to hold a conference and every endeavour will be made to complete them as early as possible.

37. Railway via Kanjirapalli.

Mr. A. H. Mead (Member, Central Travancore Planters' Association) said that, owing to their chairman Mr. Leahy being unable to represent them, the Association had asked him to lay their views before His Highness' Government in the hope that they would give them due consideration. He represented that his Association hoped that, when the time came to link the Travancore and Cochin Railway systems, preference would be given to a trace which would follow an inland route *via* Kanjirapalli, rather than to a line along the sea-board.

38. Appointment of an European scientific agriculturist.

An important matter which affected both the planter and the native agriculturist was the crying need for the appointment of an European scientific officer to advise and instruct in all matters connected with agriculture. Both the Madras and Mysore Governments maintained such an establishment, while in the neighbouring Crown Colony of Ceylon a very efficient Agricultural Department existed and was being much appreciated by all classes of the community. The immense service such a Department would render to a country by improving existing cultivation and introducing new products and in dealing with the subject of pests and blights would, the Association fully trusted, be recognized by His Highness' Government.

39. Up-keep of minor roads in the Hill Districts by the Planters.

Another matter he wished to bring forward was the bad state of the branch roads in Peermade, especially the road from the 'Hope' Estate to the western side of the District. His Association requested His Highness' Government to consider the advisability of handing over all the branch roads in the District to them for future up-keep and to allow them the same maintenance grant as was shown in the Budget at the time of transfer. His Association wished to put on record their appreciation of the good work done by the D. P. W. on the main Kottayam-Peermade road.

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